

Standard 4-2 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the settlement of North America by Native Americans, Europeans, and African Americans and the interactions among these peoples.

4-2.1: Use the land bridge theory to summarize and illustrate the spread of Native American populations (G, H)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand / Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/Future Knowledge:

This is the only time in United States history that the land bridge theory is taught. However, in 3rd grade, students compared the culture, government, and geographic location of different Native American nations in South Carolina (3-2.4).

It is essential for students to know

According to the **land bridge theory**, Native Americans migrated from Asia to North America across a land bridge during the Ice Age. During this time period, low temperatures caused large areas of water on earth to freeze and form glaciers. These glaciers caused the level of water in the ocean to drop. The land that once was under water became exposed creating a long land bridge that connected North America to Asia. Various historians developed the theory that hunter-gatherer people may have crossed this land bridge from Asia into North America and then continued across North America and spread into South America following herds of animals.

It is not essential for students to know:

It is not essential for students to explore other theories of migration. They do not need to do research on the buffalo or the extinct mammoths that these hunter-gatherer peoples may have been following.

Assessment guidelines:

Appropriate assessment would require students to **explain** the land bridge theory. Students may be required to **infer** from a map how the Native American population migrated to North America.